has been drawn to an article captioned 'Inside Radiation Zone' which appeared in Delhi edition of Indian Express, dated 21st June, 1998 regarding hazards suffered by the miners of Uranium mines and people of Jaduguda area in Bihar;

(b) the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to ameliorate the lot of these hapless uranium miners and their families from hazards of radiation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The article is not based on facts. The Uranium Corporation of india Ltd. (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy, operates the uranium ore mines and mill in the Jaduguda area of Bihar. No miners engaged by UCIL or their families are suffering from any radiation hazards due to the mining operations of the Company. Since the inception of this Company, the radiation exposure to the miners and the radiation level in and around the plants have been constantly monitored by the Health Physics Unit of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, a constituent unit of this Department. The radiation exposure to miners are well below the prescribed permissible limit and the background radiatioin level at Jaduguda is also similar to that in the surrounding areas.

Long-term effects of Nuclear Explosions

2485. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the immediate and long-term effects of nuclear explosions on human beings;

(b) whether Government have studied the dangers of nuclear weapons, particularly the effects of bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof and what steps have been taken to counter the ill-effects of nuclear explosions on human health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Nuclear explosions carried out in atmosphere can effect the human beings due to the generation of blast, heat and radiation. Underground nuclear explosions carefully done (fully contained) have no effect on human beings.

(b) and (c) The Department of Atomic Energy has studied the dangers of nuclear weapons. The studies corresponding to Hiroshima and Nagasaki have been done by various international organisations and teams. Their findings are well documented and Govt. is aware of these findings.

Demand of compensation by Residents of Pokharan Tehsil

2486. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the villagers of Khetolai, Dholia and Bhadaria of Pokharan Tehsil have demanded compensation for the damages to their homes;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to meet the demand; and

(c) whether any medical examination was carried out on those villagers and any medical and arranged to save them from radioactivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The villagers of Khetolai and Dholia have demanded compensation for the damages to their homes.

(b) A team of Revenue officials of the Government of Rajasthan has conducted a survey to ascertain damages to houses etc. The team found some minor damages in some of the houses in the Pokharan area, estimated to the tune of Rs. 3.62 lakh. Compensation for that amount was extended as relief to the villagers, which, however, was not accepted by the villagers, even though the relief offered was much higher than the relief provided in case of damages caused by natural calamities.

(c) Yes, Sir. Survey conducted by a team of doctors sent by the Government of Rajasthan has observed no effect of radioactivity to any person in the area.

Peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy

2487. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals are on the anvil of invite officials from Pakistan's atomic establishment to have a discussion with their Indian counterparts on joint or several initiatives in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

(b) whether, even in the absence of official level initiatives, Government will encourage groups of scientists and technologists from India to establish direct contact with their counterparts in Pakistan to discuss such matters; and

(c) whether the Government have any information of infiltration by outsiders into India's atomic research centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government have no such proposals for consideration before them.

(b) Government are not considering any such proposal.

(c) No, Sir.

Opinion of permanent UN Security Council members on Nuclear tests

2488. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether five permanent U.N. Security Council Members tentatively agreed to avoid threatening sanctions against India over nuclear testings during negotiations on a draft U.N. resolution recently; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The UN Security Council resolution 1172 adopted on 6th June, 1998 does not contain any reference to sanctions.

(b) Question does not arise.

Rehabilitation of persons repatriated from UAE

2489. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian labourers living unauthorisedly in UAE had been repatriated/driven out during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government took suitable steps to rehabilitate them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) About 60000 Indian nationals, who were declared to be illegal residents by the UAE authorities, were deported between July 1 and October 31, 1996 under an amnesty scheme.

(c) Yes, sir.

(d) To facilitate the return of these Indian nationals to the UAE and their